

**Reflective Experience Working at The Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota  
County with Stata**

By: Abigail Wagner

A Senior Project

Submitted to the Division of Social Sciences and Humanities  
New College of Florida  
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree  
Bachelor of Arts in Economics/ Art  
Under the sponsorship of Dr. Tarron Khemraj and Dr. Sherry Yu

Sarasota, Florida  
May, 2021

### **Acknowledgements**

I would like to express my gratitude to my co-sponsors Dr. Khemraj and Dr. Yu for guiding me through this senior thesis project and spearheading this new way of senior study. I hope that my paper and work with them can lay the groundwork for future students that decide this option is more worthwhile for their career path. I would also like to thank Professor Buyssens for his guidance in attaining my slash in art as well as his participation on my thesis committee.

I would also like to thank my parents who always advocated for me to pursue my higher education and encouraged me to gain independence.

Lastly I would like to thank my boyfriend John and roommate Sarah for assisting me in logging some of the surveys for my internship. Without your help I would have felt overwhelmed and would not have completed the task in such a timely manner.

## **Table of Contents**

Acknowledgements	2
Table of Contents	3
List of Figures	4
Internship Proposal	5
Introduction to EDC and Overview of Internship	9
Economic Development	11
Internship Experience and Findings	15
Concluding Statements	28
Resume	30
References	31

**List of Figures**

Figure 1, Primary Industry of Business	16
Figure 2, Economic Outlook 2019	17
Figure 3, Economic Outlook 2020	18
Figure 4, Economic Outlook Based on Industry	19
Figure 5, Plans for Hiring Additional Employees	20
Figure 6, Intended New Hires Based on Industry Type	21
Figure 7, Covid-19 Impact	23
Figure 8, Remote Work Options	24
Figure 9, Percent of Employees that Worked Remotely	25
Figure 10, Percent of Remote Employees Based on Industry	26

## **Internship Proposal**

### *Personal Life Goal Inventory*

As a senior in college I feel as though I have a good grasp on what my strengths are as a person as well as my weaknesses. While I attended Coral Gables Senior High I learned a lot about time management due to being in the marching band, on the golf team, and an IB/AP student. I learned about hard work and how to push through periods of intense productivity. After entering college I became the most independent I have ever been and realized that I no longer had my parents to push me and needed to begin working for myself. Through my four years at New College I have learned that I am dedicated and that I make sure that I am completing projects to the best of my ability. I know that my work is a reflection of myself and I want that reflection to look good. I would also say that a positive attribute of mine is my friendliness. I feel as though in every job I've held and every opportunity I've had where I've gotten to know people or peers that I am working with, I have created meaningful connections that have led to great work. A good example of this is from my internship preparing taxes with United Way Suncoast last spring. Throughout the internship I would chat with my co-volunteers when I arrived early in the morning and we quickly became interested about each other's lives and worked together very well through understanding each other's strengths and weaknesses. As far as weaknesses, I do tend to get overwhelmed when I feel as though I have too many projects or too much work on my plate. However I have been trying to keep more organized in order to keep a handle on that. Whenever I begin to feel stressed or concerned about the amount of work I need to do, I write myself a list with due dates and keep it on hand so that I can refer to it and make sure that my work is completed on time and stress free. I would also like to improve on

starting projects earlier. I feel as though I tend to procrastinate on projects and this is what gets me to the point where I am stressing out about work in the first place. I do believe that this shortcoming of mine has improved since I began college, but it could use even more work.

### *Two Personal and Two Professional Goals*

One personal goal of mine, and probably the most uncommon, is to restore a car in the next five years. I have loved cars ever since I was little, and since I got my first car this summer I have been more motivated than ever to find a car that needs some work and give it a little love. My boyfriend and I have been talking about getting an old Volkswagen Beetle, most likely after I graduate, to take it apart, learn all we can, and (hopefully) put it back together. I think that creative and stimulating projects like this are an important way to blow off steam from the stress of every day jobs and I'm very excited to try it. Another personal goal is to keep up with my fitness training. Last year in August I began weightlifting and through my own dedication and the direction of my boyfriend and his coach I have kept up with this training for over a year now, my goal is to continue on the track I was on in the summer and push my body to new limits. As far as professional goals the main thing I will be striving for post-graduation (along with many other graduates I'm sure) is a steady job in my field. I feel as though many students my age are worried about finding a job and having job security after they graduate and I'm hoping that by starting my post-graduate job search early I will have an easy time finding something that I'm interested in doing. Another professional goal which is tied closely to what I mentioned previously, is to find out which part of the economic sector I would like to be working in. As of right now I am considering financial advising but I know that there are so many other things that

I could do with my degree that I just don't know about yet. I hope to explore my field and find something that I feel is the right fit for me.

*Specific Professional Position I am interested In*

Since last year I have been very curious about financial advising positions. While I'm not sure that it is ultimately what I want to do, I think it might be a good stepping stone towards learning the skills I will need for my true goal. That goal is to help people in my community become financially stable and secure. With the widening wage gap and wealth inequality in the United States I really want to be able to help people get to a point where they do not have to worry about money. I think a job such as this would be a great way to do that since I would be helping individuals manage their portfolios and become financially stable. I heard about this type of job through two different speakers that came to NCF last year as well as on a field trip to the Northern Trust. Through those experiences I heard first-hand about the job. It seems as though financial advisors create meaningful connections with their clients which is something that I would love in a career. To my end goal, after having the experience I would love to create a program to help people in poverty become more financially stable. I would like to create a program that connects financial advisors with people who may not necessarily be able to afford them. With that goal I would probably still keep my job as a financial advisor but run that program on the side. I feel as though the Internship capstone program has definitely helped me get on the right track to make this a reality. Through all of our meetings I feel as though I have gained valuable skills about job searching and interviewing that could help me secure a job in this field. I have never felt more confident in my job searching abilities than I do after having been through this program.

*Steps to Achieve My Goals*

As mentioned above, after graduating I wish to attain a job in my field, specifically in financial advising. My first step towards that goal will be continuing my job search after the fall semester is over. I have already been looking for possible positions alongside my internship search and have so far found three jobs to apply for. Since I intend to live in Orlando after I graduate my search is very narrow, so I believe that the earlier I am able to start the better the chances are of finding something that I will enjoy. Once the fall semester is over I will continue that search and apply for as many jobs as possible in the hopes of getting an interview. This program has opened my eyes to how long a professional job search can take, so I want to make sure that I give myself an ample amount of time to find something. Once I obtain an interview I will definitely be looking over my notes from the internship capstone project, as well as scheduling a couple of sessions with my career advisor Mrs. Ciara Suarez in order to practice my interviewing skills. After a couple of successful interviews I hope to choose a firm that most closely aligns with my views and then work diligently at my job to prove to my hirers and coworkers that I was a good choice for the position.



## **Introduction to EDC and Overview of Internship**

Beginning in February of 2021, I began an internship with the Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County. The goal of my internship: to create a story about what businesses in Sarasota County were feeling during this tumultuous year and comparing these feelings with the data collected and observed during last year's study. Although this was the fourth year of data acquisition for the EDC it was only the second for data analytics, which meant that I had the privilege of being the first to create a comprehensive comparison between one year and the next. With the shocks of the Covid-19 pandemic still being felt around the globe, I knew that this would be an extraordinary year of study.

This internship had three main tasks to be completed during the course of my work. The first was organizing all of the data collected in the surveys into excel. In the previous year, three of New College's masters students had taken up the task of creating a code to read all of this data utilizing R and Python, however I am not familiar with these computer languages so instead I chose to input the 3,009 surveys into excel by hand (With the help of my boyfriend and roommate). While this was a very time consuming endeavor it helped me become very aware of the questions being asked in the survey and the normal responses, as well as giving me the opportunity to read some of the comments left by business owners that were not recorded in the survey.

The second task to be completed was to analyze the data collected. This mainly consisted of creating graphs and tables to be compared to the previous year. I also made sure to analyze each question based on business industry type to see if there were differences in the question answers based on the type of work a business was involved in. The previous year's interns also completed this data analytics section and with their work to compare mine to I was able to draw

interesting and significant conclusions about how Covid-19 as well as the efforts of the EDC had contributed to changes in the questions answered.

The last task to be completed for this internship was to write a comprehensive document with all of my findings as well as a story telling what businesses felt in the year of 2020 and why, this was to be coupled with a power point that could be used to share my findings with other members of the EDC as well as businesses in the area. I followed the previous year's report loosely and was able to expand on the research that had been done in 2019 since I had the opportunity to compare data.

## **Economic Development**

The EDC's goal with this data as well as the goal with everything that they do, is to aid with the growing of economic opportunities in Sarasota County. This company strives to create economic development in Sarasota through job growth and assistance programs as well as other services in order to keep Sarasota County thriving. The EDC generally focuses in the industries of technology, professional services, corporate headquarters, manufacturing, and life sciences, all some of the smaller industries located in the county, with only 22% of business in Sarasota being a part of these 6 out of 14 categories (And 16% of this 22 is accounted for by Professional Services). The EDC aims to provide growth, diversification, and sustainability opportunities for businesses in these industries to improve.

As well as doing business with some of the smaller industries located in Sarasota County the EDC focuses on working with smaller companies, as well as newer businesses, in Sarasota. Their main goal is to assist with increased revenue, productivity, and competitiveness. On top of this the EDC also assists with business expansion, relocation, intelligence, assistance, and partnerships. One of the programs that the EDC assists with is the economic development incentive program. This program awards grants to businesses based on the average salary of all the new jobs that the business has created. This incentive is mainly aimed towards new businesses or locations and continues for five years after the initial hiring process is completed. One other example of the EDC's work is their Mobility Fee Mitigation. This program run by Sarasota County alleviates up to 100% of a projects mobility fees. It aims to foster economic development by attracting new businesses and encouraging new growth. The goal of these two services as well as others is to aid in company expansion as well as job growth, to create a healthier economic ecosystem in Sarasota County.

Looking at economic development through the EDC's lens, it is clear that their marker of this type of development is achieved through attracting new business and expanding on existing businesses. The programs mentioned above, as well as others, strive to achieve this goal and the EDC's main focus is to supply these opportunities to businesses in the community. While this is an incredible effort to bolster the economy of Sarasota County, it differs slightly from the definition of economic development that I have come to learn in my studies. Many articles mention the fact that economic development cannot be measured in a temporary sense and this idea is captured perfectly in a quote by Owen Barder in an article written about the ideologies of Amartya Sen. "Providing a person with a bednet or a water pump can often be an excellent, cost-effective way to improve her well-being, but if the improvement goes away when we stop providing the bednet or pump, we would not normally describe that as development." (Barder, 2012). This quote explains that if economic development is achieved by temporary solutions, once those temporary solutions are removed the economy will revert back to its previous state. While I do believe that this is an important distinction to make when talking about economic development, I do not believe that what the EDC is doing, providing temporary solutions to better new and growing businesses, is not a form of economic development as the quote would imply. The goal of the EDC is to provide a 'liftoff' or an incentive for businesses to relocate or expand within Sarasota county, therefore bringing more economic wealth into the county through increase in businesses. As well as this the EDC will continue working with businesses to make sure that they can transition out of this aid period and into a self-sustaining model. The main focus is to cut down on initial startup costs to make it easier for a business to do the work that it was created to accomplish.

The EDC also is a huge component of job growth in Sarasota County, with most of their incentive programs being focused around creating well-paying salaried jobs for the labor force. Another facet of economic development is increasing average income as well as enhancing human capabilities through better health, education, gender equity, and environmental sustainability. One of the programs mentioned above, the Mobility Fee Mitigation, considers job creation, quality, and care of employees children among other factors when determining the percent of mobility fee mitigations. This displays an investment in the well-being of new employees as well as the upbringing and education of the next generation of workers. To quote Barder again, “development must be judged by its impact on people, not only by changes in their income but more generally in terms of their choices, capabilities and freedoms; and we should be concerned about the distribution of these improvements, not just the simple average for a society.” (Barder, 2012). For a very long time average income was the main indicator of success and growth among the workforce, however the economist Amartya Sen has challenged these notions and came to the conclusion that the freedom associated with increased capabilities and choices that come from job opportunities, are a part of what leads to true economic development. As we can see from the programs the EDC leads, they are focused on creating these freedoms and opportunities for the residents of Sarasota County.

As well as aiding in creating quality jobs the EDC has a focus on bringing environmental stability into the forefront of businesses growth plans. They are an advocate for a green economy and provide green resources for businesses. The local governments of Sarasota and the EDC have come together to provide these resources for individuals and local businesses alike and their website includes links that lead to green business certification sites

as well as eco-tourism guides such as ‘Discover Natural Sarasota County’. The EDC’s 2019 business survey also included questions about business sustainability and green business practices, although those were removed this year and replaced with questions about the effects of Covid-19. The goal of the EDC however is to reinstitute these questions every few years to gauge whether there has been any growth in sustainability practices in Sarasota County.

## **Internship Experience and Findings**

As a New College student, I had always expected that I would write a senior thesis during my final year. However, I wasn't sure how writing a thesis would be beneficial to me as I planned on entering the workforce after graduation instead of pursuing grad school, as well as this I have a heavy research background already due to being in the IB program in high school. Therefore, while I felt as though I had plenty of experience with writing and research I had no experience applying my economics knowledge in a job setting. An internship that I completed with United Way Suncoast in spring 2019 showed me how fun it was to apply my skills to the real world and I wanted to pursue more experiences such as that one instead of locking myself in my room to complete a research paper. After hearing about the Capstone initiative which gave students the choice to do an internship instead of a traditional thesis and reflect on what we had learned, I knew that that would be the best senior opportunity for me. While this was not what I was anticipating for my senior thesis project when coming to New College, it fit my needs much better that I believed a traditional thesis could. If I could obtain more relevant experience in the work force I would have more opportunities for a post graduate job and more experience in the field than if I were to write a research paper. While I will admit that the opportunity cost to choosing this route was not practicing the discipline needed to stay committed to a lengthy research topic and following through with its completion, I was able to gain knowledge of how to apply my teachings in a professional setting and learned a lot about what it means to be a data analyst.

The skill that I used the most during this internship were the coding abilities that I have learned at New College. I used the coding software Stata which I had used in my Quantitative Political Analysis class in my third year. While I did struggle with the coding in the

beginning, with a quick email to my professor and a short zoom call I was able to remember what I was previously taught and through this work I gained a much better understanding of how the software functioned as well as the applications of the program to the work I could be doing after graduation.

Now to dive into the survey and my findings. As mentioned in above sections the goal of this survey is to tell a story about how businesses have felt in the last year. The surveys were mailed out in July to be completed along with tax payments from each business. In 2021 there were 3,009 respondents to the survey and the coordinating industry types are shown in Figure 1 below.

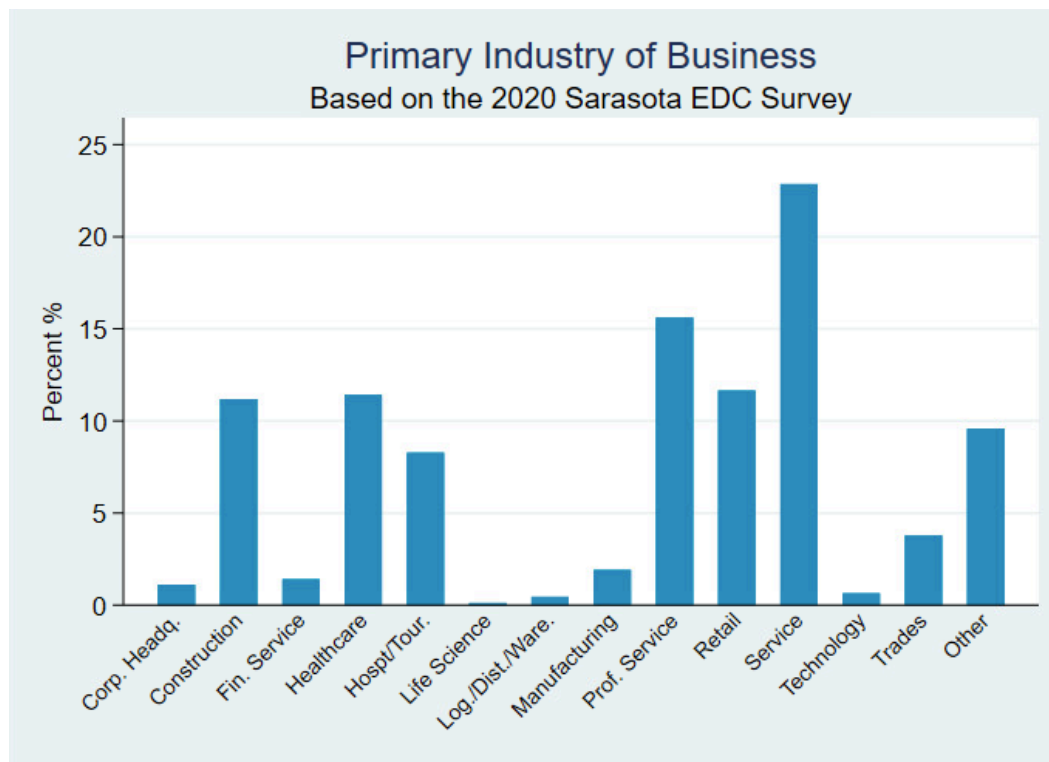


Figure 1, Primary Industry of Business



The industries that the EDC focus on are those of technology, professional services, corporate headquarters, manufacturing, and life sciences. These industries make up for 22% of the survey respondents, with 16 of the 22% being Professional Services. By collecting this data I was able to separate most questions based on industry and draw conclusions about businesses outlook for the coming year based around the EDC's target industries.

The main question asked in the survey and probably the question of the most importance for my analysis was question 6, which asked "How do you rate the economic outlook for this coming year?". This question was a big focus in my analysis since it gives an overall gauge of business satisfaction over the past year. The recorded responses for 2019 and 2020 are found in Figures 2 and 3 below.

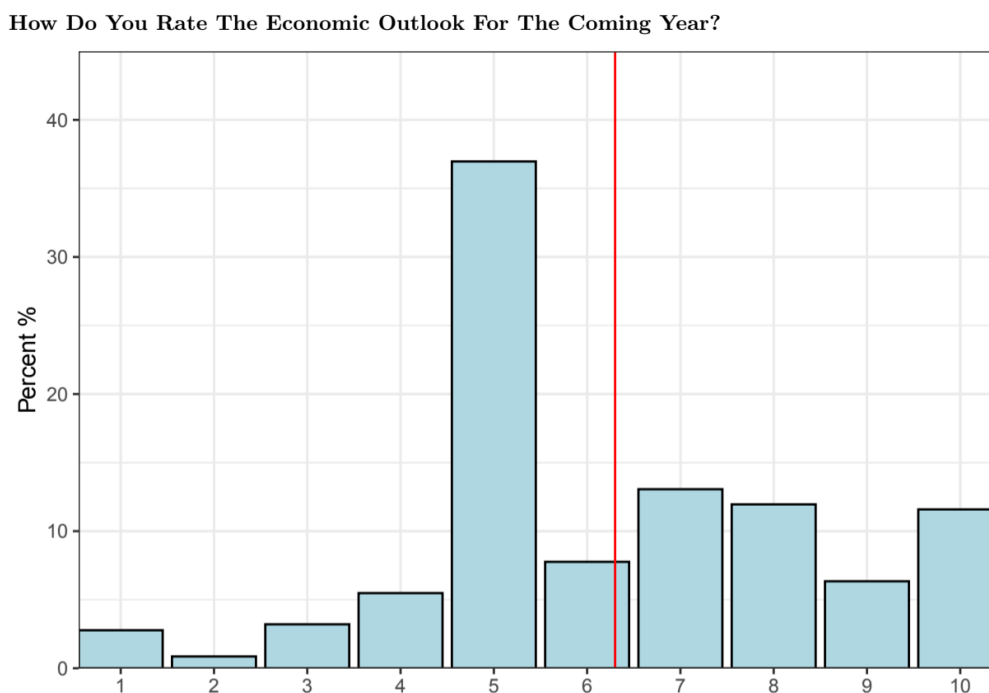


Figure 2, Economic Outlook 2019

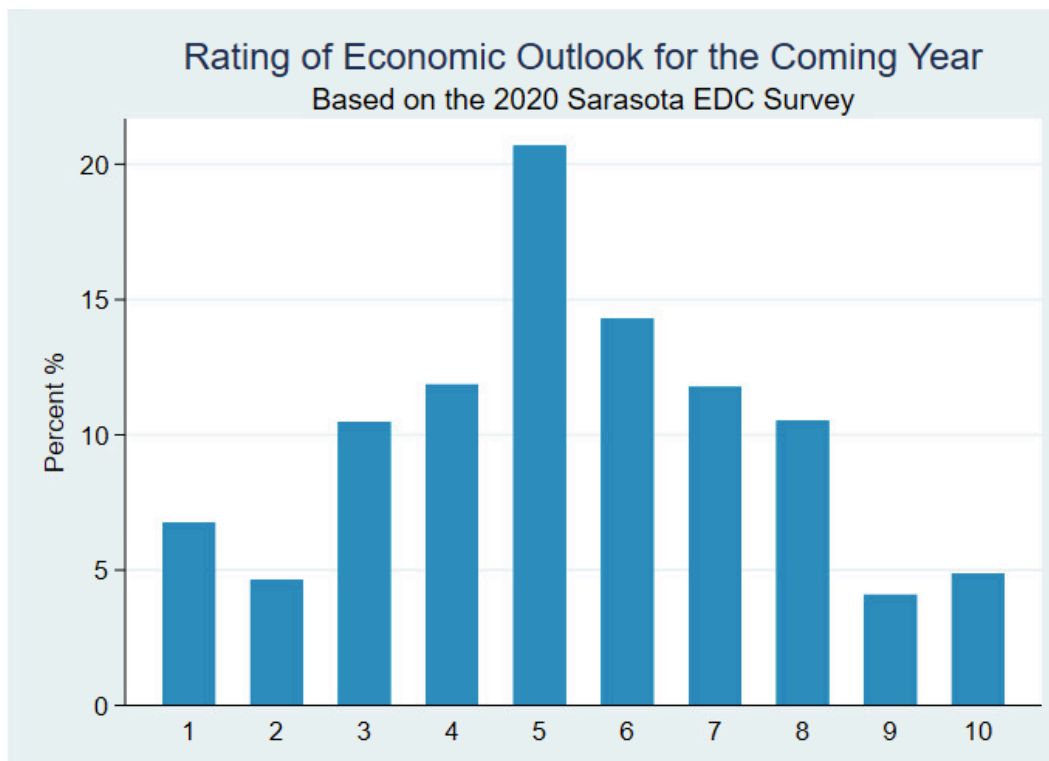


Figure 3, Economic Outlook 2020

The amount of observations for Figure 3 was 2,175 responses, which is 72% of the total responses for the survey. In both graphs the answer 1 is for a poor economic outlook while 10 is an excellent economic outlook. The mean answer of this question for Figure 3 is 5.36, and 5 was the most recorded answer, which is a neutral stance on economic outlook. This mean is a full point less than that of 2019's survey, which was 6.3. It shows a slight dip in economic outlook, most likely due to the effects of Covid-19 and the shutdowns it caused. The difference between the mode from this year to last also seems significant, last year the most recorded answer was 5 which is the same as this year, however in 2019 the answer 5 accounted for over 35% of the recorded surveys, while in 2020 the answer 5 only accounts for a little bit over 20% of the recorded surveys. As with the increasingly polarized economic climate we can observe a polarizing effect of business outlook from one year to the next. A part of this difference could be due to how many more survey respondents there were this

year, however there are other responses that have changed significantly between the two surveys which leans more into the story of increased polarization. In 2019 the answer 10 was selected in about 12% of the surveys recorded, however in 2020 the response for 10 has dropped to 5%, less than half of what it was the previous year. Due to observations like this one it does seem as though the general population of businesses in Sarasota are feeling unsure about the coming economic year due to the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

To further analyze this question, I created a graph isolating the answers for question 6 by industry type, shown in Figure 4.

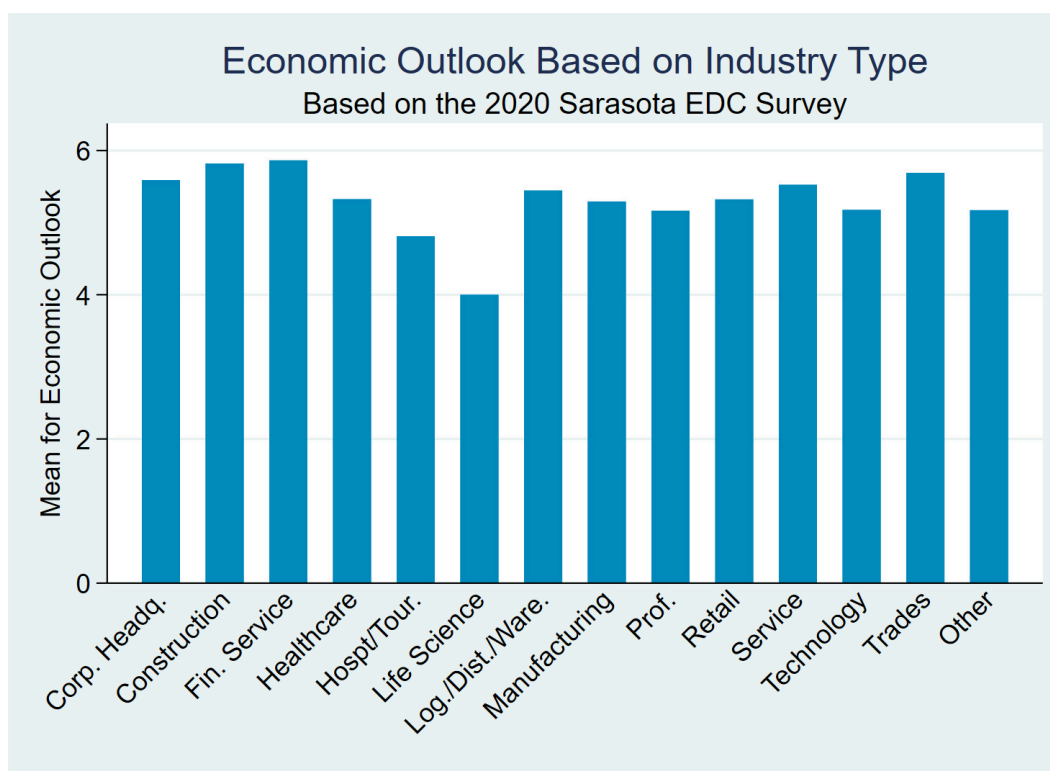


Figure 4, Economic Outlook Based on Industry

As we can see from this graph there is a slight variation of answers due to industry. While there is a different number of responses from each industry which could affect the significance of the data, we can clearly see that some industries feel more confident in their outlook for the next year than others. The industries of life science and hospitality/tourism are

feeling especially uncertain of the next years outlook potentially due to the fact that these industries were hit the hardest during the Covid-19 shutdowns. The hospitality industry as well as that of the life science industry gain the most of their revenue through tourists and visitors. Due to travel restrictions put into place by the pandemic there were not as many tourists as in previous years and due to the unknown nature of the pandemic and the fact that at the point the surveys were sent out in July 2020 there was still no vaccine available, it was hard for businesses in these industries to have a good idea of when foot traffic would return to normal.

Another focus question, which relates to what was explained above about economic development, is question 3. This question asks whether or not a business is looking to hire additional employees in the coming year and how many. The data found in this question is shown in Figure 5 below.

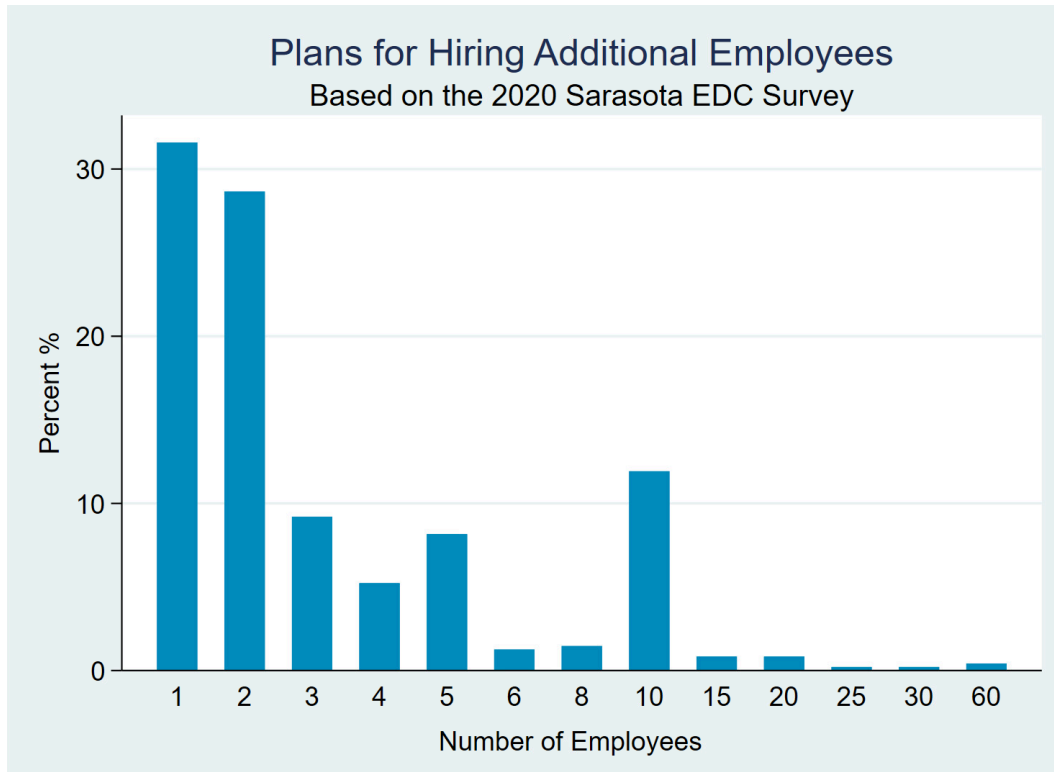


Figure 5, Plans for Hiring Additional Employees

Only 478 of the 2,687 businesses that answered question 3 are planning to hire new employees in 2021. This means that many businesses struggled during the shutdowns that occurred during the pandemic and had to lay off workers to stay afloat, so it could be possible that some businesses are still in that mindset that they cannot afford to have more workers.

Figure 6 breaks down this analysis more by separating the average amount of new hires anticipated based on industry type.

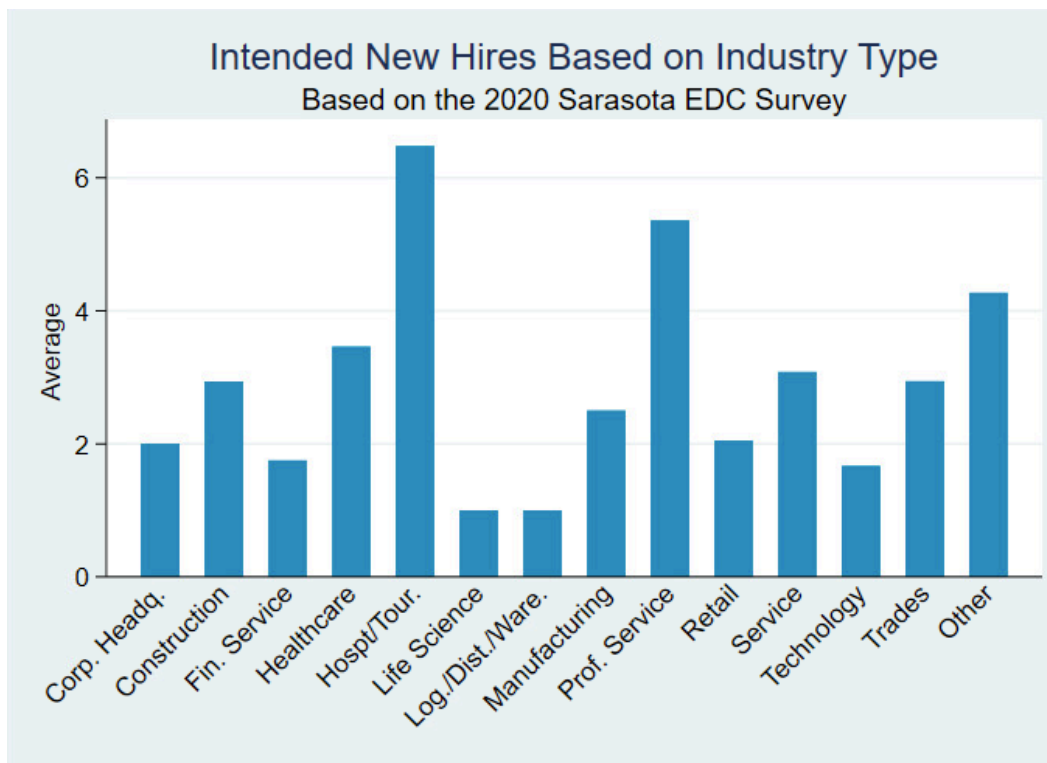


Figure 6, Intended New Hires Based on Industry Type

Figure 6 displays some data that seems unlikely at first due to the responses for question 6. The industry of Hospitality/Tourism is one that suffered the most in the category of economic outlook but has the highest average for anticipated new hires, which seems to mean that they are anticipating a better year than noted in question 6. However there could be one big reason for this expected jump in employees. Project Warp Speed had been announced a month or two prior to this survey being sent out and while the country had been coping with the Covid-19 pandemic for months at this point many scientists were beginning to predict when vaccines would be available and when the country could return to normal. The hospitality industry, which was hit hard by the initial shutdowns and had no choice but to lay off/ furlough many employees, would need to hire back those employees and maybe even more if preparing for a return to their normal amount of traffic after experiencing this drought of customers.

Another industry that seems to be looking at an influx of new hires is that of professional services. While this industry type includes a wide array of businesses, the financial sector has been especially profitable during this time since many people needed help to manage or allocate their funds during a time when job security was not at its peak. While many industries suffered at the hands of the Covid-19 pandemic, professional services, which could easily be transferred to online forms of service that in turn increased productivity, were able to thrive. An example of this can be found on the professional service of financial advising, as I am a senior interviewing for positions in this sector I have come face to face with employees in this industry. I learned that zoom has been a revolutionary service for financial advisors. In this field meetings would usually be set up with clients at their homes, or at a restaurant, and travel costs and time would add up. However, now with the introduction and widespread use of zoom, instead of having to travel to meetings and have gaps of time in between, financial advisors can simply speak to clients back to back on zoom thus increasing their productivity.

After the general questions and some more in depth questions about community topics specific to Sarasota County, the EDC included a portion of the 2020 business survey focused on the effects of Covid-19. The first and most obvious question was “how has Covid-19 impacted your business?”. The answer for 1 was negative impact, while 10 was positive impact. The results of this question are shown in figure 7 below and this question had 2,262 respondents. The mean for this question was 3.85, while the mode is 1. Both of these statistics show that Covid-19 has had a negative impact on the businesses in Sarasota county. While this is probably an effect felt across the entire US and the world, this data shows that aid and rehabilitation is important for most businesses. To speak on the EDC’s involvement in this effort, they have been working closely with businesses in Sarasota county since the Covid-19 shutdowns first went into effect.

The EDC pivoted to focus on work that would support community businesses through information sessions and promoting. In collaboration with the county the EDC also created the Small Business Resiliency Loan Program, this program had 194 businesses receive loans, supported 1,552 jobs, and allocated \$4,035,602 of the total \$4.3 million distributed for the project.

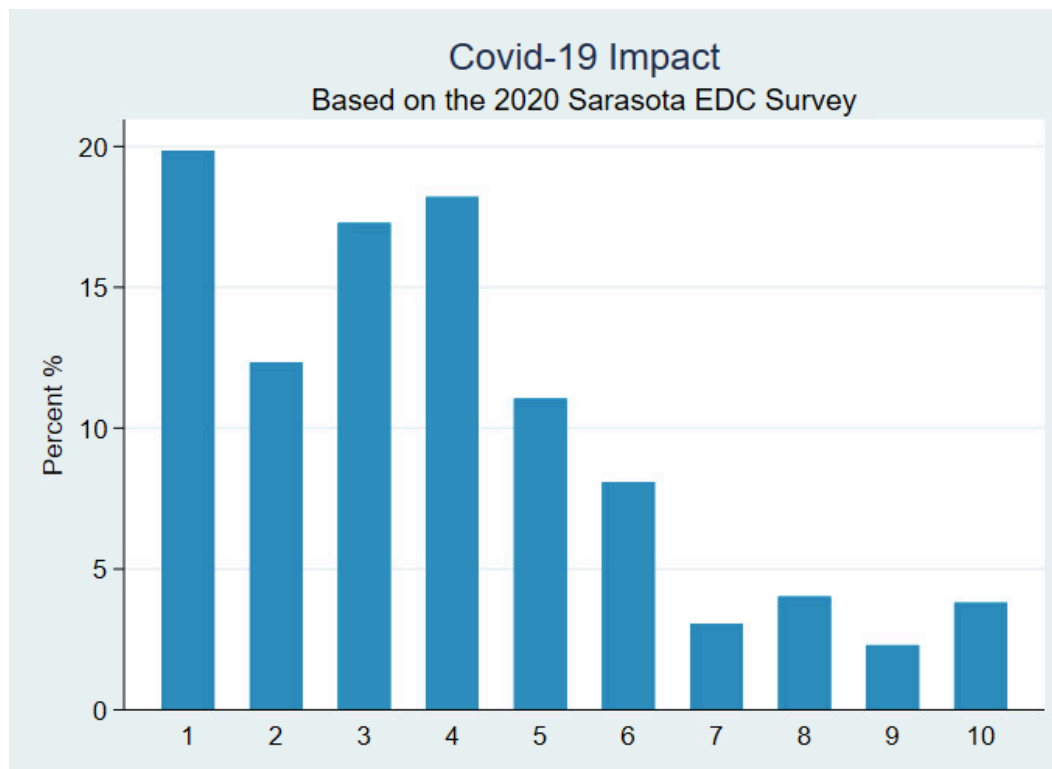


Figure 7, Covid-19 Impact

Another question in the Covid-19 section of the 2020 business survey was “Did your company adopt a remote work option for your employees?” which also ties into the last question “what percentage of your employees worked remotely during the Covid-19 shutdown?” The results from these two questions are shown in Figures 8 and 9.



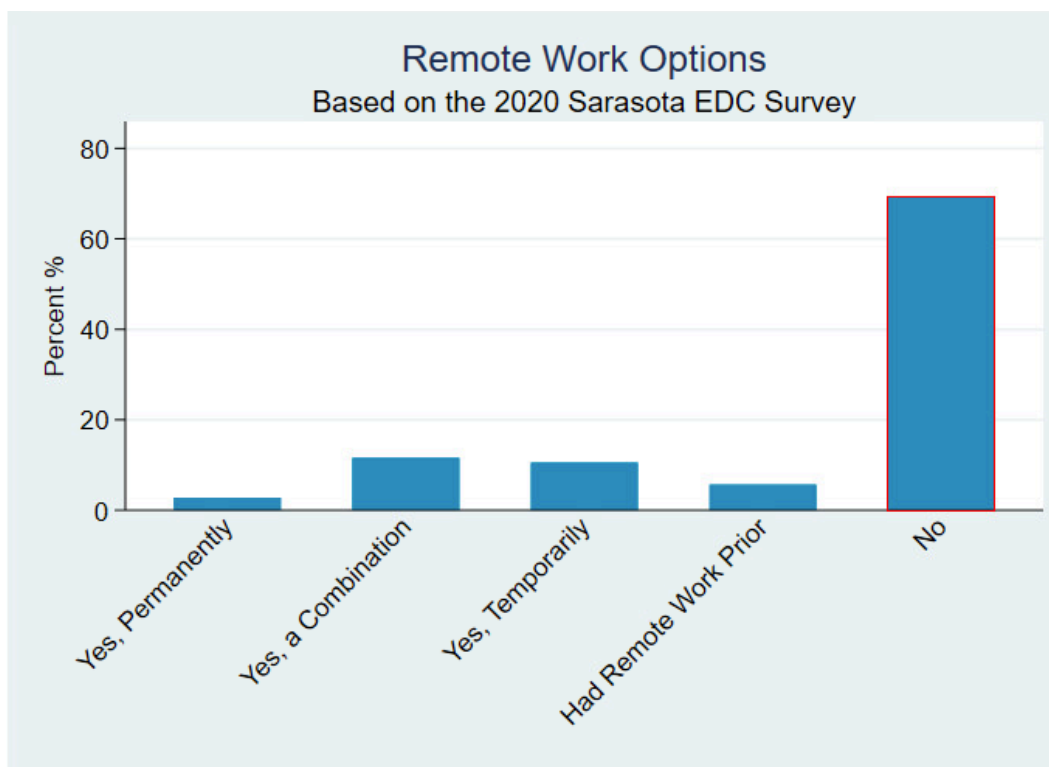


Figure 8, Remote Work Options

There were 2,222 responses to question 9. The data shows that 70% of businesses did not adopt a remote work option due to covid-19. The fact that Sarasota county did not move to work from home/remote options as much as other places in the state have may be due to the fact that the majority of jobs in the county are retail, service, and hospitality jobs. Of the few businesses that were able to adopt work from home policies the two most popular responses were a combination of remote and on site work as well as temporary remote work, with about 10% of responses each. The amount of companies that plan to incorporate a work from home/ remote work policy full time is about 3% and the amount of companies that had remote work prior to covid-19 is around 6%.

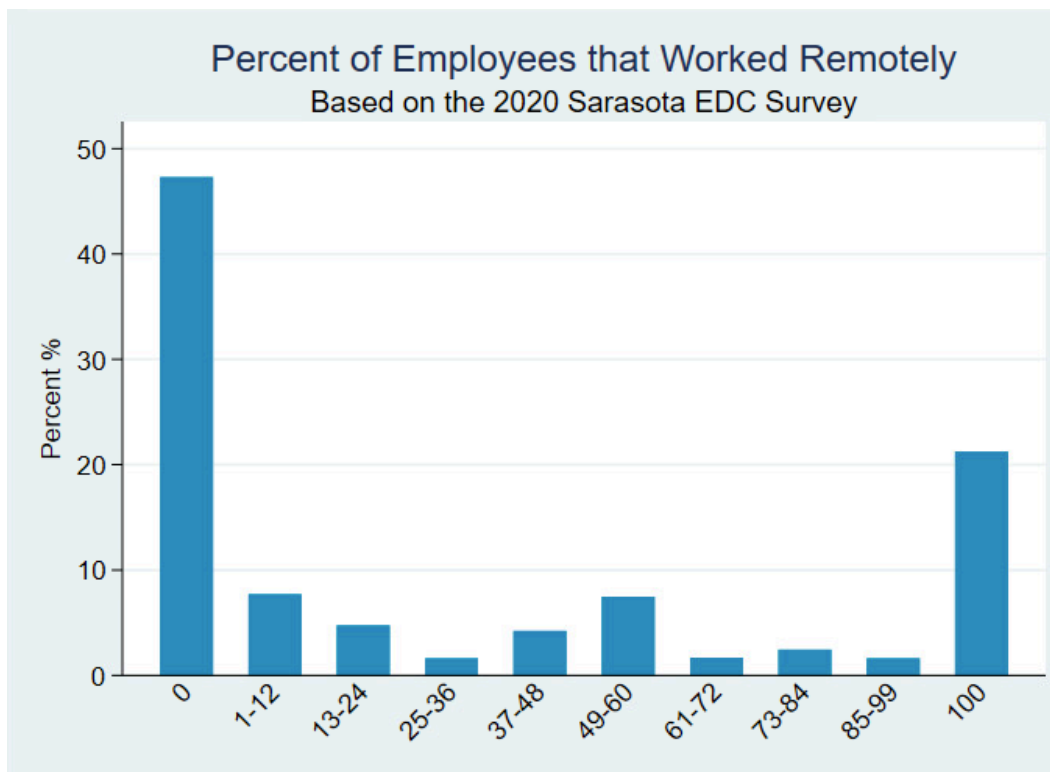


Figure 9, Percent of Employees that Worked Remotely

The data in Figure 9 shows us what percentage of employees worked remotely. I did suggest a change to this question as the fact that there were so many answers for zero when this question was supposed to target companies who had adopted a remote work option showed a lack of understanding of the question. Since the Covid-19 questions will be asked again next year, I have suggested that a bucket system be adopted (like the one I used to label the graph) instead of the 0%, 50%, and 100% labels that were used this year. Since there weren't specific labels for each of the 10 bubbles (besides 0 and 100) the other bubbles are somewhat arbitrary, bubble 3 may have been 30% to one person, while it was 40% to another, which leads to the data not being as reliable as the EDC had hoped.

For the sake of this analysis we will still look at the data provided but take it with a grain of salt since the question was not formatted in the best way. We can see from Figure 9 that of the businesses that adopted remote work the most common practice was for that work

to be fully remote, with the largest section of responses (besides 0) being 100%, this made up for 20% of the responses. The two second highest brackets were 1-12% and 49-60% of employees being remote, and all of the other brackets each made up less than 5% of responses. Percentage of remote employees was also broken down by industry type as shown in Figure 10, which shows us that the industries of Life Science, Technology, Financial Services, and Professional Services had the most remote employees, with the average amount being over 50%. Corporate headquarters also falls on the cusp of 50%, while the rest of the industries recorded had 40% or less employees working remotely.

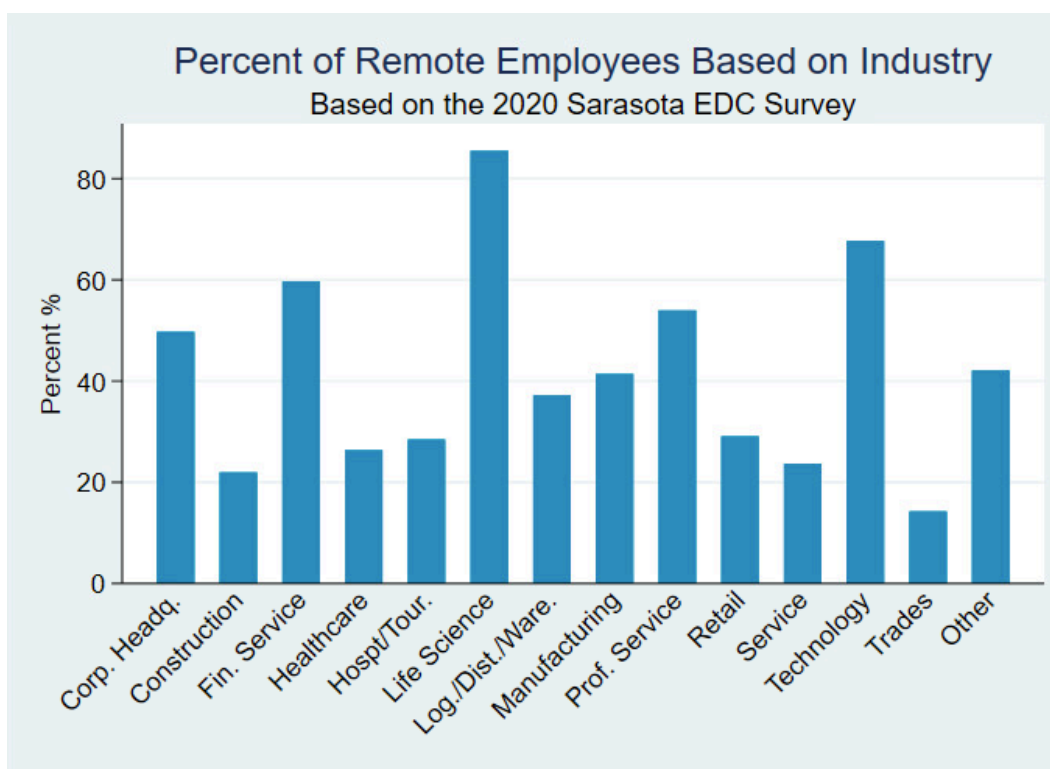


Figure 10, Percent of Remote Employees Based on Industry

It is notable that industries such as the retail, hospitality, healthcare, and construction industries would have a more difficult time working remote, whereas technology and professional services can be offered through online channels.

## **Concluding Statements**

While my senior thesis project was not what I expected it to be, working with the EDC and helping them gain an understanding of how businesses in Sarasota have been feeling in the past year has been an incredible opportunity for me to learn more about being an independent business professional. My internship experience with the EDC not only helped me apply my technical skills to a real world situation but also taught me about what economic development is from a business standpoint instead of an academic one. Through my research on the EDC I was able to find out more about how they aid businesses that are new to Sarasota County or wanting to expand, as well as examples of their programs.

My data also gave the EDC good insight into the outlook of businesses for 2021. Through it I discovered that businesses are feeling less confident in their economic outlook than they were in 2019 and as well as this many businesses in the county have been negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. While this sheds a negative light on the coming year, the amount of intended new hires for 2021 has only gone down 2% from the intended amount of new hires for 2020 and it seems as though the industries of Hospitality/Tourism and Professional Services are expecting a great rebound from the country wide shut downs.

If I was to complete this project again, I think I would have liked to try and learn the Python and R coding schemes that the previous interns used to organize the survey data into excel. It was not the best option for me since I had no previous experience with the programs, but if I had more time for it I believe that the most important step that the EDC could take regarding this survey is to make it easier to digitize the survey data. Another thing that could have helped me with this project would have been completing the data transfer into excel faster. I set calendar reminders every week to section out time for this segment of the project,

however with job interviews and doctor visits due to my car accident I missed a few of my allotted time slots, though I did still manage to complete the data transfer faster than the EDC expected. One more thing that I could have done better would be to have contacted a member of the faculty about using Stata before beginning my data entry. When I began to use Stata for this project I ran into a few problems with the type of data that my excel sheet was being translated to. Fixing the data into a useable format for the project was not difficult, however it would have been more straightforward had I taken the information down in the way that the faculty member suggested after I had already made a complete data set.

# Abigail Wagner

(786) 973-0293 - [abigail.wagner17@ncf.edu](mailto:abigail.wagner17@ncf.edu)  
12515 Lake Square Circle apt 301 Orlando, FL

---

## EXPERIENCE

### EDC Analytics Intern

Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County

January 2021- Present  
Sarasota, FL

- Organized 2000+ surveys into a readable excel sheet for data analytics.
- Completed extensive analysis on the economic outlook of businesses in Sarasota County.
- Created a detailed presentation on findings to present to the EDC.

### Tax Preparer

Suncoast VITA Program

January 2020-April 2020  
Sarasota, FL

- Computed tax returns for moderate to low income families resulting in \$50K in tax returns being reimbursed into the community.
- Completed 20 hour VITA/TCE certification course backed by the IRS.
- Communicated with community members and paid attention to financial and familial details every session to accurately complete tax returns.

### Mentor

New College of Florida

January 2019-May 2019  
Sarasota, FL

- Led high school students through an economics and finance mentorship program every week to teach about managing loans, investments, savings, credit cards, etc.
- Observed lectures from guest speakers every week, furthering personal knowledge about the fields of economics and finance.
- Assisted in developing plans for the future of economics clubs and events at New College of Florida.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Sculpture Lab TA

New College of Florida

August 2018-Present  
Sarasota, FL

- Trained on all sculpture lab machinery including MIG welder, Oxy-Acetylene welder, table saw, miter saw, wood and metal bandsaw, etc. and aid with repairing and upkeep on all machines.
- Supervise students every week to assure equipment is being used correctly.
- Built new structures to enhance the studio space, including three 8x5ft metal tables, stand for a belt sander, and a rag dispenser.
- Completed 2-5 personal projects per semester for training and learning purposes.

### Cashier/ Server

Blaze Pizza

August 2020-February 2021  
Sarasota, FL

- Communicated with 200+ customers daily ensuring, fast service, and a positive experience.
- Responsible for accurately training new hires in my positions.
- Helped peers pick up skills ensuring more efficient service.

## EDUCATION

Bachelors of Arts in Economics; Minor in Art  
New College of Florida

May 2021  
Sarasota, FL

## References

- Barder, O. (2020, December 3). *What Is Development?* Center For Global Development.  
<https://www.cgdev.org/blog/what-development>.
- COVID-19. EDC. (2021, April 15). <https://www.edcsarasotacounty.com/covid-19/>.
- Cypher, J. M. (2021). *The process of economic development*. Routledge/Taylor & Francis Group.
- Economic Development Corporation of Sarasota County. (2021). *EDC Services*. Sarasota , Florida; EDC Sarasota County.
- Green Economy. EDC. (2021, March 26). <https://www.edcsarasotacounty.com/green-economy/>.
- Krugman, P. R., & Wells, R. (2021). *Macroeconomics*. Worth Publishers, Macmillan Learning.
- Observer, B. (2021, March 16). *Two manufacturers to receive incentives for creation of 222 jobs: Business Observer*. Business Observer.  
<https://www.businessobserverfl.com/article/sarasota-county-economic-development-incentives-manufacturers-222-new-jobs-rhino-trailers-commercial-residential-aluminum-and-fabricating>.
- Sen, A. K. (2001). *Development as freedom*. Oxford University Press.